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CONTINUUM OF INFAMY

A year's worth of celebrity 'news' boiled down just for you 27

DEATH TRAP

New York gunman left a note saying he planned to kill people 3

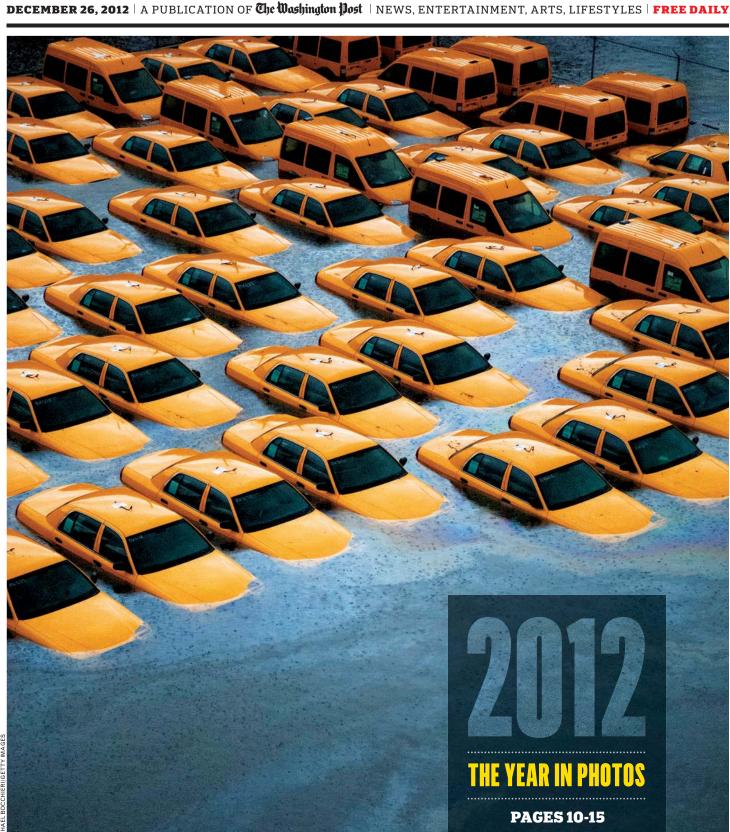
STAR CLUSTER

Which of D.C.'s hot sports talents promises to shine the brightest?9





FOR EXTENDED FORECAST, SEE PAGE 25





eye openers

FAUX PAS

Santa Claus Instantly Regrets Picking Cheap Dry Cleaners

Police in Sweden had to intervene after a foreign visitor to a spa and conference center grew angry because a visiting Santa Claus was wearing a gray instead of red costume. No one was arrested during the incident in Vallsta on Tuesday. But police said in a brief statement that the foreign guest grew agitated over the Santa outfit and argued with the center's staff. (AP)

SOMEONE FOR EVERYONE

"I wanted her to have an engagement present she could look at every day."

— **NICK CAVILL**, OF SOMERSET, ENGLAND, ON GIVING HIS GIRLFRIEND TWO DONKEYS WHEN HE PROPOSED, AS REPORTED BY THISISSOMERSET.COM ON MONDAY. HE BOUGHT A RING, TOO.

FINDINGS

Next, Scientists to Make All Reindeer Just Like Rudolph

The hunt for the perfect Christmas tree may soon become a lot easier: Just pick a nice clone. German biologist Kurt Zoglauer of Berlin's Humboldt University said last week that 40 percent of the popular Nordmann fir trees don't make the cut when they mature after 10 to 14 years. Some are stunted by frost, while others turn out the wrong shade of green. Zoglauer's team therefore hopes to refine a method to clone particularly hardy and beautiful trees by 2016. (AP)



'THEY'LL NEVER KNOW WHAT HIT THEM': From left, Joey Greene, 6; Carly Greene, 10; and Tyler Greene, 14, make a snowman — or a very large snowball — Monday as a Christmas Eve snowstorm blows through Martinsburg, W.Va.



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N.Y. Gunman Left Chilling Note

Body found in home of ex-con who lured firefighters to deaths

Webster, N.Y.

The ex-con who lured two firefighters to their deaths in a blaze of



Spengler

gunfire left a rambling typewritten note saying he wanted to burn down the neighborhood and "do what I like doing best, killing peo-..... ple," police said

Tuesday as they recovered burned human remains believed to be the gunman's missing sister.

Police Chief Gerald Pickering said 62-year-old William Spengler, who served 17 years in prison for the 1980 hammer slaying of his grandmother, armed himself with a revolver, a shotgun and a



Firefighters battle a blaze Monday in Webster, N.Y., after a man set his house on fire and shot four firefighters who responded; two died and seven homes burned down.

military-style rifle before he set his house afire to lure first responders into a death trap before dawn on Christmas Eve.

"He was equipped to go to war, kill innocent people," Pickering said.

The rifle he had was a militarystyle .223-caliber semiautomatic Bushmaster rifle with flash suppression, the same make and caliber weapon used in the elementary school massacre in Newtown, Conn., Pickering said.

Pickering declined to divulge the full content of the two- to three-page note left by Spengler or say where it was found, but he read one line from it: "I still have to get ready to see how much of the neighborhood I can burn down, and do what I like doing best, killing people."

The human remains were found in the charred house that Spengler shared with his 67-year-old sister, Cheryl. A medical examiner will need to determine the identity and cause of death.

Spengler killed two firefighters and wounded two others before fatally shooting himself as seven houses burned around him Monday. A friend said Spengler hated his sister but the chief said the note left by him did not give a motive.

No other bodies were found, and police late Tuesday said the on-scene investigation had been completed. The two other firefighters are hospitalized in stable condition. GEORGE M. WALSH (AP)

Christmas Storms Pound U.S.

New Orleans

Freezing rain and sleet made for a sloppy Christmas morning trek in parts of the nation's midsection Tuesday, while residents along the Gulf Coast braced for thunderstorms, high winds and tornadoes.

Winds toppled a tree onto a truck in the Houston area, killing the driver. Icy roads were blamed for a 21-vehicle pileup in Oklahoma. And heavy fog blanketed highways across Atlanta. In New Mexico, drivers had to fight through snow, ice and low visibility.

At least two tornadoes were reported in Texas, though only one building was damaged, according to the National Weather Service.

More than 180 flights nationwide were canceled by midday, according to the flight tracker Flight aware.com.

Meanwhile, a blizzard watch was posted for parts of Indiana and western Kentucky for storms expected to unfold Tuesday. Up to 7 inches of snow was predicted.

In Mississippi, Gov. Phil Bryant urged residents to have a plan for any severe weather.

"It only takes a few minutes, and it will help everyone have a safe Christmas," Bryant said. (AP)

Hearsay

"Thanks to @netflix outage we can likely expect a moderate population explosion in nine

- @-IOFI RRAVE TWEETING THESDAY IN RESPONSE TO VIDEO-STREAMING SERVICE **OUTAGES MONDAY. NETFLIX SAID TUES-**DAY THAT SERVICE WAS RESTORED AND BLAMED IT ON AMAZON WEB SERVICES.

In Newtown, a Solemn Christmas



MEMBERS OF THE RUTTER FAMILY EMBRACE Tuesday morning near memorials at Sandy Hook's firehouse in $Newtown, Conn. \, A \, steady \, stream \, of \, residents \, relit candles, \, dropped \, off \, toys \, and \, fought \, back \, tears \, at \, the \, memorials \, honoring$ $the \, 20\, children \, and \, six \, educators \, gunned \, down \, at \, Sandy \, Hook \, Elementary \, School \, just \, 11 \, days \, before \, Christmas. \, determine the \, 20\, children \, and \, six \, educators \, gunned \, down \, at \, Sandy \, Hook \, Elementary \, School \, just \, 11 \, days \, before \, Christmas. \, determine the \, 20\, children \, and \, six \, educators \, gunned \, down \, at \, Sandy \, Hook \, Elementary \, School \, just \, 11 \, days \, before \, Christmas. \, determine the \, 20\, children \, and \, six \, educators \, gunned \, down \, at \, Sandy \, Hook \, Elementary \, School \, just \, 11 \, days \, before \, Christmas. \, determine the \, 20\, children \, and \, 30\, children \, 30\, ch$



TRADITIONS

Direct Line to Santa This year, NORAD Tracks Santa

received more than 111,000 calls

from children as of midnight Tuesday, breaking last year's record of 107,000. Hundreds of volunteers including first lady Michelle Obama in Hawaii—answered calls at Peterson Air Force Base in Colorado on Christmas Eve. North American

its predecessor have been fielding the phone calls since 1955 after a newspaper ad listed the wrong phone number for kids to call Santa. (AP)

Aerospace Defense Command and

World

In Brief



The 942 settler homes are slated to join ones like these in east Jerusalem.

IEDIISALEM

Israel Fast-Tracks More Homes on Disputed Land

Israel has advanced the process to build 942 more settler homes in east Jerusalem under a plan to tighten its grip on the territory, which the Palestinians claim as the capital of a future state. A spokesman for Palestinian President Mahmoud Abbas said the move was a "red line" that would block the chance for a two-state solution to the conflict.

CARACAS, VENEZUELA

Chavez Up and About After Surgery, VP Says

Vice President Nicolas Maduro told Venezuelans that President Hugo Chavez is up and walking two weeks after cancer surgery in Cuba. Maduro said he spoke by phone with Chavez on Monday. The statement did little to ease uncertainty about the leader's condition.

MVEZO, SOUTH AFRICA

Children Keep Tradition, Despite Ailing Mandela

Hundreds of children attended a Christmas party at the birthplace of Nelson Mandela and voiced hopes that the hospitalized 94-year-old will return to good health. The party is a tradition started by the anti-apartheid leader. President Jacob Zuma visited Mandela at his bedside and found him "in good spirits."

MOSCOW

Plane Crash Kills 27

Kazakhstan's acting border service chief was among 27 people killed in a military plane crash Tuesday. The Russian-made plane crashed near the border with Uzbekistan. (AP)

Syrian Rebels Make Major Gains

Town near Turkey is captured, adding to victories in north

Beirut

Syrian rebels fully captured a northern town near the Turkish border Tuesday after weeks of heavy fighting and attacked a regime air base in a neighboring province, activists said.

The air base is in Aleppo province, where opposition fighters have already captured three other large military bases in recent months. Rebels have also laid siege to the international airport in the city of Aleppo, Syria's commercial capital, and launched an offensive on the police academy near the city.

With steady rebel gains across the north, President Bashar Assad's



Pope Benedict XVI wished Christmas peace to the world Tuesday, decrying the slaughter of the "defenseless" in Syria, where anti-regime activists estimate more than 40,000 have died in fighting since the uprising against President Bashar Assad's rule began in March 2011. Benedict prayed that "peace spring up for the people of Syria, deeply wounded and divided by a conflict that does not spare even the defenseless and reaps innocent victims." (AP)

regime is having increasing difficulty sending supplies by land to Aleppo province, especially after rebels cut a major thoroughfare from Damascus. It is just another sign that the opposition is consolidating its grip across large swathes of territory in northern Syria near the Turkish border.

In another blow to the regime, activists said that Mohammed

"The regime cannot protect its bases and also cannot send forces to support troops under siege."

— AHMAD RAMADAN, AN EXECUTIVE COUNCIL MEMBER OF THE OPPOSITION SYRIAN NATIONAL COUNCIL GROUP

Adnan Arabo, a member of Syria's parliament, has left the country and joined the opposition. Ahmad Ramadan, an executive council member of the opposition Syrian National Council group, and other activists said Arabo arrived in Turkey on Tuesday.

He said the regime's hold on power is deteriorating and rebels are besieging military bases for weeks until they either take over or negotiate with local army commanders to surrender. He added that some regime forces are being diverted to the capital to fight there.

Over the weeks, rebels fighting to overthrow Assad have been able to take the battles into the capital of Damascus, Assad's seat of power, where the southern neighborhoods are witnessing almost daily clashes between troops and rebels.

Here Comes Santa Claus



A CHILD DRESSED AS JOLLY SAINT NICK toddles toward the altar Tuesday during Christmas prayers at Saint Mary's Garrison Church in Jammu, India. The nation, where Christians make up just 2 percent of the population, joined worshippers the world over to observe the holiday and mark the birth of Christ.

Egyptians OK Disputed Constitution

Cairo

Egypt's disputed Islamist-backed constitution passed with a 63.8 percent "yes" in a referendum, the election commission announced Tuesday, rejecting opposition allegations of significant vote fraud.

Turnout of 32.9 percent of Egypt's nearly 52 million registered voters was lower than most elections held since the uprising nearly two years ago that ousted leader Hosni Mubarak. This is the first constitution since his removal.

The opposition campaigned against the constitution in sometimes deadly protests, arguing that it will usher in Islamic rule in Egypt and restrict freedoms. The opposition vowed to challenge the results and fight for a share of power in the upcoming parliamentary vote expected within two months. (AP)

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DC Rider



Money Wait Over for VRE

Virginia Railway to receive expected bulk of 'access fee' dollars

Transportation

Virginia Railway Express will receive the bulk of its expected allocation from the state to cover the fees it pays to host rail lines, officials say, ending a two-month wait over millions of dollars VRE said it needed to continue to provide passenger rail service.

The glitch occurred with a change in how federal transportation dollars were delivered to Virginia and meant that \$9.6 million in so-called track access fees — paid by VRE to CSX and Norfolk Southern rail lines — was held up in state coffers instead of being delivered to VRE.

However, in a letter passed on to VRE's Operations Board members last week, Thelma Drake, the director of the Virginia Department of Rail and Public Transportation, assured VRE that the bulk of the track access fees would be provided by the state.

VRE chief executive Doug Allen said in an email to VRE's leadership that he had been concerned about the uncertainty over the track access fees funding.

"Because of our required budget preparation schedule, we cannot adequately plan for the VRE system if we do not know until our budget has been set if we have a reliable funding source for one of our largest expenditures each year," Allen wrote.

But now and in the future they can, because Gov. Bob McDonnell's recommended budget includes language that would fund the fees with



Passengers board a Virginia Railway Express train during the evening rush.

Game-Day Metro

Metrorail will stay open an extra hour Sunday for Redskins fans to use the system as they leave FedEx Field. The football game starts at 8:20 p.m. The extra hour of service is being paid for by the Washington Redskins. (TWP)

federal dollars, which Allen called "reliable funding."

Without the funds, the passenger rail line, which takes about 20,000 passengers daily toward the District from lines starting in Manassas, Va., and Fredericksburg, Va., would have been ill-equipped to deal with the shortage, officials said. VRE had laid out a series of possibilities to make up for the

shortfall, including increased passenger fares or more taxpayer contributions through the local governments that make up VRE's membership.

All of the scenarios were viewed as severe and unpalatable by VRE's leadership.

VRE officials will also push for a greater allocation of state and federal funding. Drake's letter said the agency's request for funding for next year could come up short by \$680,000 to \$720,000.

VRE generally adopts its budget in the spring. This April, VRE increased passenger fares by 3 percent, primarily to pay for increased costs associated with contractors and increased fuel costs.

JEREMY BORDEN (THE WASHINGTON POST)



Let's Do Shots! We've spread our wings to Instagram here at DC Rider, and we're looking for submissions. Have you ever spotted something that you just had to take a picture of while riding Metro (bus included)? That's what we're looking for. Post your shots and tag us @ExpressDCrider. If we like (heart) your shot, you can email it to us at dcrider@wpost.com for publication. Witty captions or clever descriptions, including where your pic was taken, will improve your odds.

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In Brief

WASHINGTON

Former Post Reporter to Run for D.C. Council Seat

Elissa Silverman filed papers last week to become a candidate in the April 23



Silverman

special election to fill an at-large D.C. Council seat. The post was vacated by Phil Mendelson when he was elected council chairman. The seat is currently being held on an

interim basis by D.C. Democratic State Committee leader Anita Bonds, who is seeking the permanent post. Silverman is a former reporter for The Washington Post and Washington City Paper. During her campaign, Silverman is taking unpaid leave from the D.C. Fiscal Policy Institute. (TWP)

RICHMOND, VA.

State Parks Encouraging Folks to Hike in New Year

The Virginia State Parks system is participating in a national program to start Americans down a healthy path in 2013. It's called First Day Hikes, and it begins New Year's Day. All 35 state parks in Virginia are participating. Last year, more than 14,000 people hiked more than 30,000 miles in state parks across the country. Hikers are encouraged to bring field guides, a nature journal and a camera. (AP)

KENSINGTON, MD.

Two Die in Three-Car **Crash on Capital Beltway**

Two people died and several others were injured Monday after a three-car accident on the Capital Beltway, Maryland State Police said. Police said the crash happened about 7:40 p.m. Monday on the outer loop of the highway near the Connecticut Avenue exit. It started when the driver of one car lost control and swerved into another lane, striking a second vehicle and spinning onto the shoulder. Police said the first car then returned to its lane, where it was struck by a third car on the left rear door and left wheel door. (AP)

D.C. Reliving Housing-Boom Days

District home gets 168 bids in red-hot real estate market

Washington

It didn't look like a house anyone would pay \$400,000 extra for.

Several walls inside were streaked with water stains. And termites had dined in front.

The pluses: It was 2,850 square feet, had off-street parking and was in walking distance of Union Station and H Street NE.

Then there was the list price: \$337,000.

Two weeks and 168 bids later,

the house — in the 800 block of Fourth Street NE — was sold for \$760,951 to an unidentified buyer.

The sale this month floored many real-estate agents, including James Lisowski, whose clients put in a losing bid.

"I don't think it was worth that finished," he said.

While much of the nation is still struggling, the District is reliving its boom days. High rents, low interest rates, low inventory and a flood of new residents are making parts of the city feel like it's 2005 again.

The once-slumping condominium market is also coming back in areas such as Logan Circle in



This home in the 800 block of Fourth Street NE was sold for \$760,951.

NW, where buvers have rushed the unfinished Northern Exchange building. Upscale apartment developer P.N. Hoffman is converting the 110-year-old building into 36 "micro lofts."

Chief executive Monty Hoffman said the response shouldn't surprise anyone, given the building's proximity to trendy bars and its industrial-chic aesthetic.

It is what people move to a city for.

"People prefer their homes and lifestyle to not be massproduced," he said, adding that Northern Exchange "has grit. People love authenticity." ANNYS SHIN (THE WASHINGTON POST)

Jack's Boathouse Eviction on Hold

Washington

Plans to evict Jack's Boathouse, the popular canoe and kayak rental operation on the Potomac River in Georgetown, have been put on hold after the National Park Service received a flood of messages voicing concern.

"In the last 24 hours, I have received hundreds of emails from citizens concerned with the future of Jack's Boathouse," National Park Service Director Jon Jarvis said Monday.

On Dec. 18, the Park Service told owner Paul Simkin that his lease would be ended. But Monday night, Jarvis said he had "directed the staff at the park and the regional office to withhold further action on the lease termination until I have conducted a thorough review and determined the



Jack's Boathouse is on Park Service land in the shadow of Key Bridge in Georgetown.

best course of action."

Simkin called that "an unbelievable gift." He said he had just finished a night and day of trying to find jobs for his staff, many of whom have depended on the operation.

On Sunday, the Park Service

acknowledged the value of the boathouse's services and said it would offer those services under a concession. The Park Service said it expected no interruption in ser-Vices. MARTIN WEIL AND ALLISON KLEIN (THE WASHINGTON POST)

Man Shot, Killed **Outside House On Capitol Hill**

Washington

Jason Anthony Emma moved to Capitol Hill from Arlington County on Dec. 1, piling into a rowhouse filled with his lifelong friends and excited about living in the city.

But after returning to his new home on C Street in Northeast Washington about 2:15 a.m. Monday, police said, Emma, 28, was shot several times, killed as he sat in the driver's seat of his Audi after parking.

"He wanted to be around the happening place," said a close friend and roommate who is a D.C. firefighter. "He wanted to be right in the mix of things." PETER HERMANN AND ALLISON KLEIN (THE WASHINGTON POST)

The Lotteries

Tuesday, Dec. 25

Maryland

Mid-day Pick 3	0-5-
Evening Pick 3 (Mon.)	1-7-
Mid-day Pick 4	1-8-0-
Evening Pick 4 (Mon.)	7-7-9-
Match 5 (Mon.)	05-24-25-29-38 (01

Mid-day Lucky Numbers	7-6
Evening Lucky Numbers (Mon.)	7-5
Mid-day DC 4	3-8-0-
Evening DC 4 (Mon.)	2-9-1
Mid-day D.C. Five	7-2-8-1
Evening D.C. Five (Mon.)	2-5-1-3-

id-day Pick 37-4-9	Evening Pick 4 (Mon.) 2-5-4-7
vening Pick 3 (Mon.) 4-2-5	Mid-day Cash 5 (Tues.) 12-20-22-26-33
id-day Pick 44-8-6-3	Evening Cash 5 (Mon.)9-11-22-27-34

All winning numbers are official only when validated at a claims location. Drawings that occur after Express' deadline will be published two days later.

Sports

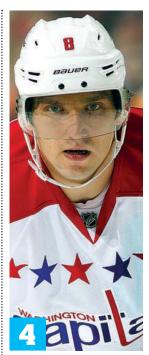
D.C., the Promise Land

At one point in 2012, Washington was at the center of the sports world. Robert Griffin III was pronounced the savior of the Redskins before he even took his first snap. The Nationals owned the best record in baseball and were on their way to their first postseason since they arrived in the District in 2005 (and everyone felt the need to weigh in on Stephen Strasburg's shutdown). With some of the top young stars in sports, Washington certainly won't be yielding the spotlight in 2013. But which of D.C.'s stars has the most promising future? JEFFREY TOMIK (EXPRESS)



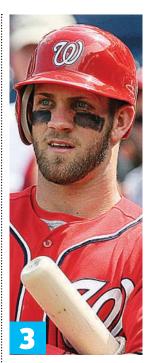
Alfred Morris

The Redskins' sixthround pick out of Florida Atlantic has his sights set on the Redskins' singleseason rushing record. After running for 91 yards Sunday, he's 104 yards away from breaking Clinton Portis' mark of 1,516 yards in 2005. Morris' humility - he drives a 1991 Mazda 626 and sleeps on the couch when he visits his parents - makes it even easier to root for him. Next year he won't sneak up on teams. But defenses' main focus will continue to be RGIII, allowing Morris to keep producing in his secondary role.



Alex Ovechkin

The Capitals' star will be entering his eighth season whenever the NHL returns. Ovechkin is 27 years old and coming off the worst year of his career, with 65 points in 2011-12. Even so, he scored the fifth-most goals in the league (38). Ovechkin may no longer be an annual candidate to win the Hart Memorial Trophy - he isn't scoring 50 goals a season like he used to - but he's still one of the league's top goal scorers. Ovechkin's success in 2013 will depend on how well he fits in with the system of new Caps coach Adam Oates.



Bryce Harper

The NL Rookie of the Year became the youngest position player ever selected to the All-Star team. As a 19-year-old, Harper hit .270 with 22 home runs, 59 RBIs and a team-high 98 runs after the Nationals brought him up on April 28. The 2010 No. 1 pick's strong arm, aggressive base running and power at the plate have made Harper one of baseball's most dynamic stars. Other players to put up similar numbers as a teenager? Mel Ott, Ken Griffey Jr. and Mickey Mantle. So expectations are high, to say the least.



Stephen Strasburg

The right-hander's 2012 season was cut short because of an innings limit in his first full year after having Tommy John surgery, but Strasburg was 15-6 with a 3.16 ERA and 197 strikeouts. In the first 45 starts (2151/3 innings) of his career, Strasburg's 11.2 strikeouts per nine innings is better than any pitcher in baseball history with a minimum of 1,000 innings pitched. Without an innings limit in 2013, Strasburg should be a leading candidate to win the NL Cy Young Award.



Robert Griffin III

The rookie has the Redskins on the verge of making the playoffs for the first time since 2007. Griffin is second in the NFL $\,$ in passer rating (104.1) with 3,100 passing yards, 20 touchdowns and just five interceptions. He's also run for 752 yards and six touchdowns. His success on the field and his charisma off it have made him a fan favorite league-wide. Griffin is still learning the nuances of being an NFL quarterback, so he's only going to get better ... which is a scary thought for NFC East foes.

In Brief



The Celtics' Rajon Rondo drives to the hoop against the Nets' Deron Williams.

NBA

Rondo Leads Celtics To 93-76 Win Over Nets

Rajon Rondo scored 19 points in his first full game against Brooklyn this season, and the Boston Celtics beat the Nets 93-76 on Tuesday in another game with some heated moments between the division rivals. Rondo, sidelined in the first meeting and thrown out of the second after shoving Nets forward Kris Humphries into the courtside seats, outplayed counterpart Deron Williams and helped the Celtics take control early. (AP)

NBA

Lakers Win Fifth in Row With Victory Over Knicks

Kobe Bryant engineered a second-half comeback, helping the Los Angeles Lakers beat the New York Knicks 100-94 on Tuesday and extend their winning streak to five games while lifting them to .500. Bryant scored 34 points and Metta World Peace added 20 points and seven rebounds while defending Carmelo Anthony, whose 34 points led the Knicks. Bryant has topped 30 points in nine straight games. (AP)

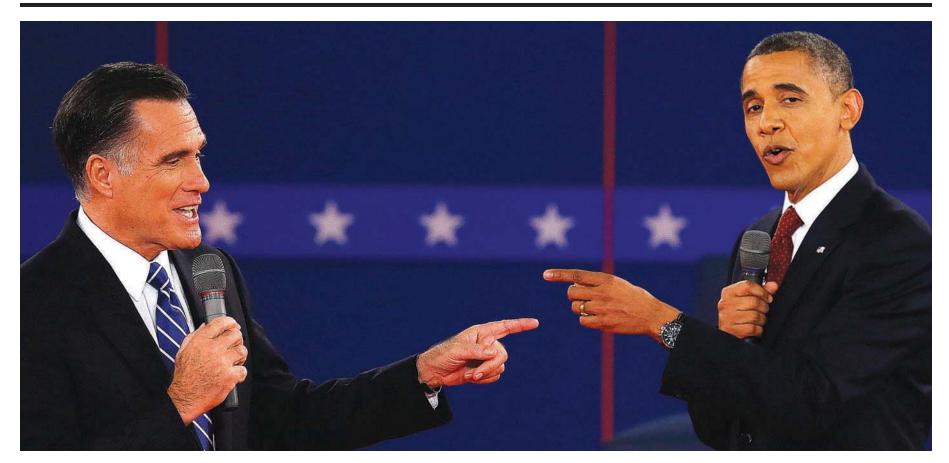
TV Lineup

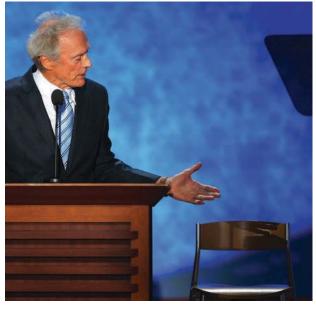
WIZARDS (7 P.M., CSN) The Wizards (3-22) will try to end their seven-game skid against the second-worst team in the East, the Cavaliers (6-23).

COLLEGE FOOTBALL (7:30 P.M.,

ESPN) The Little Caesars Bowl features two teams — Western Kentucky (7-5) and Central Michigan — that were barely bowl-eligible.

2012 The Year in Photos









on the cover

Superstorm Sandy brought the fastpaced lives of East Coasters to a standstill in late October, as gas shortages, mandatory carpooling and gridlock took over parts of New York and New Jersey. A flooded lot of taxis in Hoboken, N.J., became an iconic image from the storm. MICHAEL BOCCHIERI/GETTY IMAGES



Obama Strikes Back

After being called out for his poor performance in the first presidential debate, President Barack Obama came out swinging in the second. Both Obama and GOP nominee Mitt Romney, however, would be criticized for bickering over debate rules. CHARLIE NEIBERGALL/AP



Chair Politics

The most memorable part of Clint Eastwood's odd appearance at the Republican National Convention: when he talked to an empty chair. The Obama camp later tweeted a photo of the president's chair with the words "This seat's taken." MARK WILSON/GETTY IMAGES



A Pick-Me-Up

Big Apple Pizza and Pasta owner Scott Van Duzer embraces President Barack Obama during an unannounced campaign stop in Ft. Pierce, Fla. The image landed on the front pages of the New York Times and Los Angeles Times. PABLO MARTINEZ MONSIVAIS/AP



Joe and the Bikers

Vice President Joe Biden gets cozy with customers at Cruisers Diner during a campaign stop in Seaman, Ohio. While the Internet buzzed that the woman was sitting on Biden's lap (!), in reality, she had simply pulled her chair up next to the veep. CAROLYN KASTER/AP

The Year in Photos | 2012











High Jumper

Austrian skydiver and daredevil Felix
Baumgartner leaps out of a capsule from more than 24 miles up Oct. 14. Baumgartner broke the sound barrier while making the highest jump ever before landing in the New Mexico desert. A worldwide audience watched live on the Internet via cameras mounted on his capsule. AP



Swept Away by Sandy

Waves break Oct. 31 in front of a destroyed amusement park in Seaside Heights, N.J., two days after Superstorm Sandy made landfall. The storm killed at least 125 people in the U.S. and 70 in the Caribbean and is being blamed for about \$71 billion in damage in the U.S., the vast majority in New York and New Jersey. MARIO TAMA/GETTY IMAGES



Slaughter at Sandy Hook

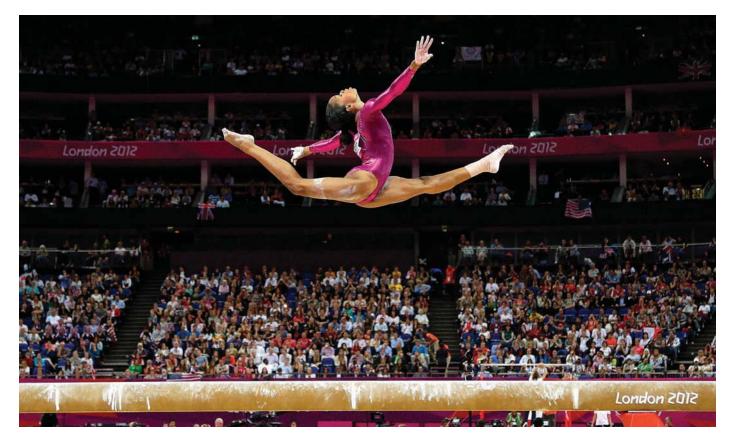
Carlee Soto pleads for news about her sister, Victoria Soto, a teacher at Sandy Hook Elementary, after an attack in Newtown, Conn. Adam Lanza fatally shot his mother, then forced himself into the school and killed 20 children, six adults and himself Dec. 14. Victoria Soto, 27, was among those killed; she was lauded for her heroism. JESSICA HILL/AP



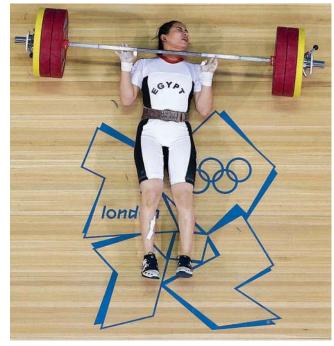
Racial Tensions Erupt

A college student attends a rally in Atlanta in memory of slain Florida teenager Trayvon Martin. Protests broke out nationwide after the Feb. 26 death of the unarmed black teen, who was shot by neighborhood watch volunteer George Zimmerman as he was walking to his father's house carrying Skittles and iced tea. The trial begins in June. JESSICA MCGOWAN/GETTY IMAGES

2012 The Year in Photos











Pushed to the Limit

Things aren't always pretty at the Olympics. The hazards athletes face while pushing themselves to their physical limits were evident throughout the London Games, and were epitomized in the women's 75 kg weightlifting final when Khalil Mahmoud K Abir Abdelrahman of Egypt failed to complete her lift. ROB CARR (GETTY IMAGES)



'Squirrel' Flies High

With a nickname like "The Flying Squirrel," Gabby Douglas was destined for Olympic stardom. She became the first black gymnast to win the individual all-around competition and also won gold as a member of the U.S. squad in the team competition. She topped her Olympics successes with a sit-down with Oprah Winfrey. GREGORY BULL (AP)



Phelps Goes Out on Top

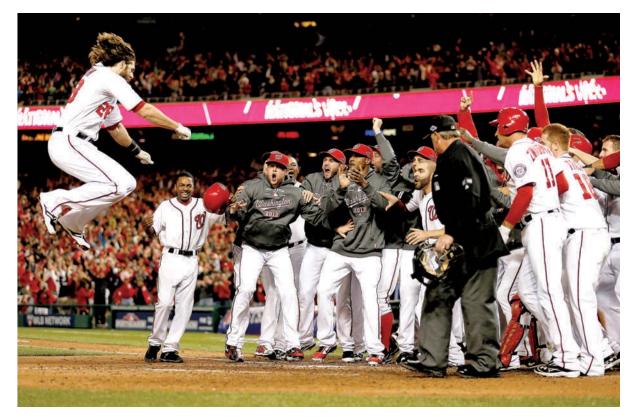
Michael Phelps knows how to end a career. With four golds and two silvers in London, the swimmer from Baltimore retired with more gold medals (18) and overall medals (22) than any other Olympian. At the end of the Games, he was presented with a special award for his career achievements. AL BELLO (GETTY IMAGES)



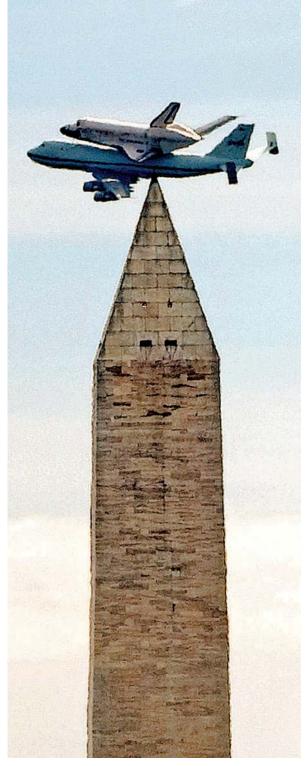
Games on the Thames

With the 2012 Games, held from July 27 to Aug. 12, London became the first city to host the Olympics for a third time. More than 10,000 athletes from 204 nations competed. The U.S. finished with the most medals overall (104), followed by China (88) and Russia (82). Host nation Great Britain finished with the third-most golds (29). DANIEL OCHOA DE OLZA (AP)

The Year in Photos | 2012









Werth the Wait

For the first time since the Nationals' arrival in the District in 2005, the team experienced the jubilation of a postseason home win when Jayson Werth, left, blasted a walk-off solo home run in the ninth inning of Game 4 against the St. Louis Cardinals. A day later, though, the Nats were introduced to the agony of a playoff defeat when Washington blew a six-run lead in a decisive Game 5 loss at Nationals Park. ROB CARR (GETTY IMAGES)



RGIII to the Rescue

The Redskins traded four high draft picks, including the No. 6 overall selection, to the St. Louis Rams for the right to take quarterback Robert Griffin III with the No. 2 pick in the 2012 NFL Draft. In his rookie season, the Heisman Trophy winner emerged as a local and national fan favorite. Griffin set the NFL single-season jersey sales record, according to ESPN, while also making the Redskins a playoff contender. PABLO MARTINEZ MONSIVAIS (AP)



Eyes Up Here

The space shuttle Discovery passes directly over the Washington Monument on the back of a 747 during its trip from the Kennedy Space Center in Florida on April 17. After many people came out to see a flyover of the Capitol, White House, the Mall and much of the Potomac River, the duo touched down at Dulles International Airport, just a few miles from Discovery's retirement home, the Smithsonian's Steven F. Udvar-Hazy Center in Chantilly, Va. JONATHAN NEWTON/TWP

2012 The Year in Photos













Exile's Protest

A Tibetan exile screams after setting himself on fire in New Delhi on March 26 to protest a planned visit to India by Chinese President Hu Jintao. The demonstrator died two days later. MANISH SWARUP/AP



No Relief for Syria

A man weeps over the body of his son, who was killed Oct. 3 by government troops near the Syrian city of Aleppo. A conflict that began in 2011 as an Arab Spring offshoot has since spiraled into a civil war. More than 40,000 people have died so far, activists say. MANU BRABO/AP



Ill-Fated Cruise

Rescue ships encircle the stricken Costa Concordia on Jan. 14, a day after the cruise ship's hull was torn open by a reef when its captain steered too close to the Italian isle of Giglio. Thirty-two people, including two Americans, died in the accident. GUARDIA DI FINANZA/AP



Euphoria in Egypt

Egyptians cheer in Cairo on June 24 after Mohammed Morsi emerged victorious in the nation's first democratic presidential election. The euphoria didn't last: Morsi's apparent power grab in November sparked protests similar to those that brought down Hosni Mubarak in 2011. DANIEL BEREHULAK/GETTY IMAGES



Gaza in Shambles

A Palestinian woman surveys the rubble after an Israeli airstrike in southern Gaza on Nov. 18. Israel launched an eight-day offensive in November — the bloodiest such incursion in four years — to stop rocket fire from the Hamasruled territory. EYAD BABA/AP

The Year in Photos | 2012









Syrian Rebels Press On

A rebel sniper, seen reflected in a mirror with another opposition fighter, takes aim from a residential building in Aleppo, Syria. The country's economic hub became a crucial battleground city in Syria's bloody civil war as the opposition forces sought to wrest it from President Bashar Assad's grip. Rebels also began closing in on the capital of Damascus, Assad's seat of power, the next target in their 21-month-long quest to unseat the leader. NARCISO CONTRERAS/AP



Greece Shifts Course

Supporters of Antonis Samaras, the leader of the conservative New Democracy party, rally May 3 in Athens, Greece. Days later, voters dealt a blow to the bailout keeping debt-saddled Greece from bankruptcy, sweeping away its supporters in a May 6 election. Samaras, who pledged to renegotiate the terms of the \$171 billion rescue package, became the fourth prime minister in eight months, leading a three-party coalition. ARIS MESSINIS/AFP/GETTYIMAGES

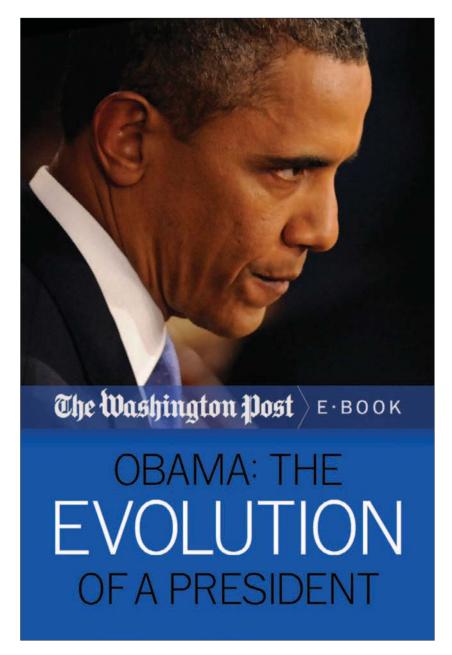


Bear-ly Believable

A tranquilized bear tumbles from its leafy perch on the campus of the University of Colorado, Boulder, on April 26. Officials estimated the young bear, which wandered into the vicinity of a dorm complex, weighed between 150 and 200 pounds. A student journalist snapped the photo, which quickly went viral online. "It was really a perfect landing," campus police spokesman Ryan Huff told the Daily Camera.



Obama



Elected the nation's first African-American president. Barack Obama arrived in Washington symbolizing the political change he promised on the campaign trail during his historic victory. But in many ways Washington changed Obama more than Obama changed Washington during his first term in office, and he emerged as a politician difficult to know, quick to compromise, and ultimately difficult to define even to his most ardent supporters. Through a series of articles, this book outlines Obama's political personality and describes his engagement with some of the most challenging issues he confronted during his time in office - and what his approach may mean for a second term should he win in November.

lookout



A Whole Lotta Love

Here's a sentence you won't read every day: The president and first lady sat down with the members of Led Zeppelin, a former prima ballerina and Dustin Hoffman. And, um, Buddy Guy and David Letterman were there, too. In other words, an unusual but somehow typical crew looked down from the main mezzanine box at the Kennedy Center for the 35th annual Kennedy Center Honors, which were taped in Washington on Dec. 2 and air at 9 p.m. Wednesday on CBS.

As usual, the Kennedy 9:00 Center Honors — part performing arts

carnival, part hall-of-fame induction ceremony, part fancyschmancy dinner — had a little something for its honorees and a lot for everyone else.

There were TV stars saluting a TV superstar (Letterman); exquisite dancing (in tribute to honoree Natalia Makarova); a great movie actor, Robert DeNiro, attesting to the chops of an acting icon (Hoffman); raucous blues (for Guy); and even raucous-er classic rock (for Zeppelin's Jimmy Page, Robert Plant and John Paul Jones).

President Barack Obama, during pre-ceremony remarks at the White House, noted correctly that such an unlikely collection of artists "had no business being on the same stage together" and that his speechwriters had struggled to find a smooth transition from "ballet to Led Zeppelin."

The ceremony itself featured the high, the low and quite a few things in between.

In honor of Makarova, who defected from the Soviet Union to the West in 1970, dancers performed pieces from her signature roles in "Giselle" and "Romeo and Juliet."

Morgan Freeman, introducing fellow Mississippian Guy, said the musician "mastered the soul of gutbucket" blues and created "a bridge from blues to rock 'n' roll."

Letterman, who has probably made more people laugh than just





From left, Led Zeppelin's Jimmy Page, Robert Plant and John Paul Jones; talk-show host David Letterman.





IN THEIR WORDS

"Everyone was serving the Zeppelin music. ... The entire point of being in Zeppelin was to make the band sound good. Whatever we did, the band was the most important thing."

– JOHN PAUL JONES ON LED ZEPPELIN'S CHEMISTRY. "You're not there to play the [jerk], you're there to show the [jerk] that's in you. Don't you dare say to an audience, 'That's not me, that's just a character I'm playing.' I resent it." - DUSTIN HOFFMAN, ON HIS PROCESS. "I'm thrilled for my family. They're looking at me like, 'He's not this dumbass now.' It's 'Oh, my God!' So that's good. To me, I'll take that. ... But please, I want people to understand: I know it's not right." - DAVID LETTERMAN, ON RECEIVING THE HONOR. "Being spontaneous, it's what **saved me"** - **NATALIA MAKAROVA**, WHO BECAME THE FIRST BALLERINA TO DEFECT FROM THE SOVIET UNION, ESCAPING IN THE THICK OF THE COLD WAR ON A WHIM. "The blues is about hard times and bad times, and maybe black people just don't want to hear that anymore." - BUDDY GUY ON WHY HIS AUDIENCES ARE OFTEN PREDOMINANTLY WHITE.

Read more from Washington Post profiles of all the Kennedy Center honorees at washingtonpost.com.





From left, actor Dustin Hoffman, blues guitarist **Buddy Guy** and Russian ballerina Natalia Makarova.

about anyone in human history, was lauded by Tina Fey, who explained that Letterman "began his career as a choreographer and black opera singer in the 1950s." She called him a national treasure "like the Grand Canyon, the Chicago skyline or the top two Kardashians." Letterman laughed heartily.

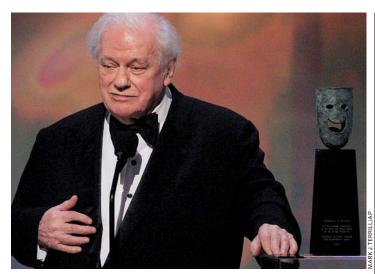
For the big finale, there was, of course, Led Zeppelin, which rated four musical numbers and overflowing, hilariously overwrought praise from presenter Jack Black ("They sang songs about love, about Vikings, about Vikings making love!").

The musicians paying tribute (Foo Fighters, Kid Rock and Lenny Kravitz) performed in front of an enormous backdrop of a gloomy and decrepit gothic church. There were seizure-inducing strobes,

bottom-rumbling bass lines and smoke effects. The whole thing suggested both a Zeppelin arena concert in the '70s and a bit of the Stonehenge set in "Spinal Tap." When it was over, no one held up a lighter.

PAUL FARHI (THE WASHINGTON POST); PHOTOS: THE WASHINGTON POST/AP

lookout entertainment



In 2008, Charles Durning received the Screen Actors Guild life achievement award.

Character Actor Was a War Hero

Charles Durning, who made history on and off screen, dies at 89

Obituary

Charles Durning grew up in poverty, lost five of his nine siblings to disease, barely lived through D-Day and was taken prisoner at the Battle of the Bulge.

His hard life provided the basis for a prolific 50-year career as a consummate character actor, playing such memorable roles as a Nazi colonel, the pope and Dustin Hoffman's suitor in "Tootsie."

Durning died Monday at age 89 in New York. His longtime agent said he died of natural causes.

Among his notable portrayals: the infamous seller of frog legs in "The Muppet Movie"; the pope in the TV film "I Would Be Called John: Pope John XXIII"; and Santa Claus in four different TV movies.

But Durning may be best remembered for his Oscarnominated, over-the-top role as a corrupt governor in 1982's "The Best Little Whorehouse in Texas." A year later, Durning received another Oscar nomination, this time for his portrayal of a bumbling Nazi officer in Mel Brooks' "To Be or Not to Be."

He won a Tony in 1990 ("Cat on a Hot Tin Roof") and a Golden Globe in 1991 ("The Kennedys of Massachusetts"). He showed up in many guest spots on TV, most recently playing the father of Denis Leary's character on "Rescue Me."

Durning was born into an Irish family of 10 children in Highland Falls, N.Y. Five of his sisters lost their lives to smallpox and scarlet fever.

He was among the first wave of U.S. soldiers to land at Normandy

Charles Durning may be best remembered for his over-the-top role as a comically corrupt governor in 1982's "The Best Little Whorehouse in Texas."

during the D-Day invasion and the only member of his Army unit to survive. He later was bayoneted by a young German soldier whom he killed with a rock. He was captured in the Battle of the Bulge and survived a massacre of prisoners.

In later years, he refused to discuss the military service for which he was awarded the Silver Star and three Purple Hearts.

"Too many bad memories," he told an interviewer in 1997. "I don't want you to see me crying."

'Odd Couple' Actor Klugman Dies at 90

His six-decade acting career spanned stage, screen and TV

Obituary

For many, Jack Klugman will always be the messy one.

His portrayal of sloppy sportswriter Oscar Madison on TV's "The Odd Couple" left viewers laughing but also gave Klugman the leverage to create a more serious character, the gruff medical examiner in "Quincy M.E." His everyman ethos and comic timing endeared him to audiences and led to a prolific, six-decade acting career that spanned stage, screen and television.

Klugman died Monday at age 90 in Los Angeles with his wife at his side. The cause of his death was not immediately known. Adam Klugman said his father wasn't battling cancer, which robbed him of his voice in the 1980s. Back then, Klugman taught himself to speak again and kept working.

Despite his on-screen wars with Tony Randall's neat-freak character Felix Unger on "The Odd Couple," the show created a friendship between the men that endured after the series ended.



Jack Klugman won Emmys in 1971 and 1973 for his role in "The Odd Couple."

When Randall died in 2004 at age 84, Klugman told CNN: "A world without Tony Randall is a world that I cannot recognize."

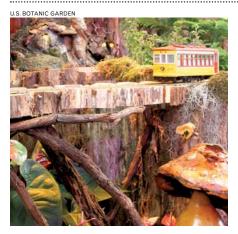
The son of Russian Jewish immigrants, Klugman was born in Philadelphia. He made his Broadway debut in 1952 in a revival of "Golden Boy."

His film credits included Sidney Lumet's "12 Angry Men" and Blake Edwards' "Days of Wine and Roses." His performance in the 1959 musical "Gypsy" brought him a Tony nomination for best featured actor.

Other TV credits included "The Defenders," "The Greatest Gift" and several episodes of "The Twilight Zone." ANTHONY MCCARTNEY (AP)

Today's Top Stops

COMPILED BY FIONA ZUBLIN



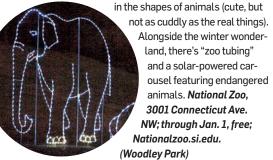
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The Devil We All Know

C.S. Lewis' religious allegories are rarely subtle but are always entertaining. "Chronicles of Narnia" (which he denied was a clear allegory) is the most famous, but "The Screwtape Letters," about Satan's psychiatrist, has a subtle, satirical humor that's irresistible. Check out the theatrical version currently touring through D.C. Shakespeare Theatre's Lansburgh Theatre, 450 7th St. NW; through Jan. 6, \$39-\$89; Shakespearetheatre.org. (Archives)

Bright Lights, Big Menagerie

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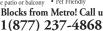
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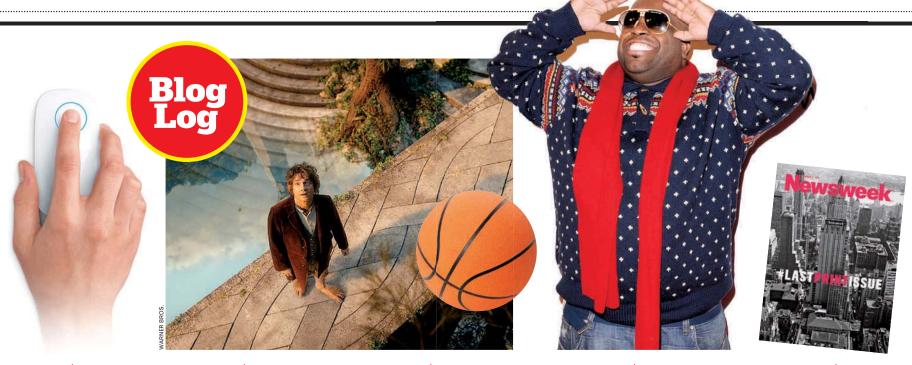
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"Today is my first day on a Mac. This mouse is stupid."

—@HOLLYMANTHEI is having trouble with the transition to a one-button device.

"Good job, Peter Jackson and crew. I'm not sure how you will pad out this slim book into three three-hour movies, but if the other two are as good as the first, we Tolkien addicts are going to be happy."

—OCCAMS-RAZOR.INFO enjoyed director Jackson's "The Hobbit: An Unexpected Journey," which he saw on the holiday.

"Watching the yule log > Watching the NBA."

—@PUCKINGSPORTS had little time for the five-game lineup of basketball that the league offered on Christmas Day this year. "Who knows when
the now very real
tradition of wearing
hideous Christmas
sweaters began,
but with celebrities
rocking revolting knits
every holiday season,
it's safe to say that this
weird ritual is truly
validated."

— James Harris at **COMPLEX.COM** runs down a list of 10 photos of celebrities wearing ridiculous Christmas sweaters. "Newsweek isn't saying die, it's just jumping head first into the warm embrace of digital media. And as the publication revealed via its Twitter account, it will be doing so with a wink and a nod, thanks to a giant #lastprintissue hashtag smack dab in the middle of a classy black and white cover. #godspeed, Newsweek, #godspeed."

— Brian Heater at

ENGADGET.COM comments on the
final print edition of the iconic
news magazine, set to hit newsstands Dec. 31.



puzzles lookout

Horoscope

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19) You're going to have to adjust your schedule in order to tend to another's more immediate needs. It's time to take decisive action.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18) A lighter approach is advised; you mustn't come on so strong that even those who are on your side are actually avoiding you.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20) You may have a certain issue that cannot be resolved out in the open — just yet. Today, you'll want to take an almost secretive approach.

ARIES (March 21-April 19) You have something of quality to bring to the table, but you may have to wait until there is room for you to be included.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20) You'll want to be in the right place at the right time — on more than one occasion, in fact. You have something to reveal.

GEMINI (May 21-June 20) You're likely to get extraordinary results simply by doing something entirely ordinary. Timing is the key.

CANCER (June 21-July 22) A fork in the road is not to be feared, but to be anticipated. You're ready to make the kind of choice that this moment requires of you.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22) You have a few words of wisdom to offer someone who is in need of some assistance. Take care you don't step in and do it all yourself.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22) Your sense of humor is just what is needed to defuse an incendiary situation. Beware, however — the wrong joke at the wrong time can backfire.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22) Take the time to do something nice for yourself today. Once you focus on another's needs, they may prove all-consuming for a while.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21) You may be building a house of cards that is perilously close to collapse; you must incorporate more practical concerns.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21) You may be asked to do something that doesn't come naturally, but if you prepare well, you should acquit yourself.



Scrabble Grams PAR SCORE 200-210, BEST SCORE 267 RACK 1 Double Word Score RACK 2 4th Letter Triple RACK 3

Friday's Solution

S ₁ A ₁ W ₄ D ₂ U ₁ S ₁ T ₁	RACK 1 =	61_
C ₃ H ₄ R ₁ O ₁ N ₁ I ₁ C ₃	RACK 2 =	68_
F ₄ A ₁ L ₁ S ₁ I ₁ F ₄ Y ₄	RACK 3 =	98
E ₁ S ₁ S ₁ A ₁ Y ₄ E ₁ D ₂	RACK 4 =	61
PAR SCORE 200-210	TOTAL	288

FOUR RACK TOTAL

Make a 2-7 letter word from the letters in each row. Add points of each word using scoring directions at right. Seven-letter words get a 50-point bonus. Blank tiles used as any letter have no point value. Scrabble is a trademark of Hasbro in the U.S. and Canada.

Sudoku

MEDIUM

			4	8	1			7
	5 7		4 6			8	2	
	7			9	5			1
	4			9			6	8
		2		1		4		
8	1			7			9	
9			7	4			1	
	2	1			9		8	
4			1	5	9			

Friday's Solution

RACK 4

6	9	4	8	7	1	5	2	3
2	8	7	9	5	3	1	6	4
3	1	5	2	4	6	8	9	7
7	6	3	5	9	4	2	8	1
9	5	2	1	8	7	4	3	6
1	4	8	6	3	2	7	5	9
5	3	9	7	1	8	6	4	2
4	7	6	3	2	5	9	1	8
8	2	1	4	6	9	3	7	5

Need more Sudoku? Find another puzzle in the Comics section of The Post every Sunday and in the Style section Monday through Saturday.

Comics

POOCH CAFE I PAUL GILLIGAN









PEARLS BEFORE SWINE | STEPHAN PASTIS









Forecast



Today: Rain and sleet this morning, then downpours. A few showers tonight.



Tomorrow: A shower tomorrow morning; breezy. Clear and moonlit tomorrow night.

Looking Ahead







45 30 41 33 43 31

Sun and Moon

Sunrise today: 7:25 a.m. Sunset today: 4:53 p.m. Moonrise today: 3:44 p.m. Moonset today: 5:47 a.m.

Almanac Normal high: 44 Record high: 72 Normal low: 30

Record low: 3

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INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY

Security+	Jan	12
IT Business Analyst	Jan	12
Information Technology Foundation	Jan	14
(A+/Network+/MCTS/CCNA/Security+)		
A+	Jan	14
MCTS: Windows 7	Jan	19
Network+	Jan	22
MCSA - Windows Server 2008	Jan	23
Cisco Certified Network Professional (CCNP)	Jan	23
Web Design and Developer	Jan	26
Certified Hacking Forensic Investigator	Jan	26
Certified Information System Security Professional	Jan	28
Oracle 11g Database Administration	Jan	29
and more		

For complete outline and schedule, visit our website at techadvance.gmu.edu

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lookout puzzles

14

20

33

36

39

44

49 50 51

56

60

63

23

40

28

Crossword

1 Honorific for a Turkish general (Var.)

5 "The dele is off" notations

10 Piggy's title

14 Heist haul

ACROSS

15 Call for food

16 "___ each life some rain ..."

17 Boxing match 18 Air conditioner

alternative

20 Area next to an

ambulatory 21 One familiar with litter

22 Tongue-in-cheek humor 23 Assign journalists to

military units

25 Flat tableland 27 Word with "skinny" or

"Bia"

29 Vain, talkative person 33 Maternal relation

34 Ride-seeker's cry

35 Domesticated

36 High jump need 37 Thing of the past

38 Ashen

39 It makes a kitty grow

41 Nothing-doing? 42 Sphere of influence

44 Burt of Tinseltown

46 Breastbones

47 Low blackjack card

48 The ones here

49 "Looper," e.g. 52 An ideal, in Chinese

philosophy

53 Long, sweeping story 56 Nonverhal

communication of a sort

59 Related 60 "A ___ technicality"

61 Prove to be false

62 Make a steer of a bull

63 Globes, spheres, etc.

64 Ancient Britons

65 Timeline units, often

1 Frequent Goya subject the

28 Mindless

57 58

61

64

15

18

21

37

41

24

45

Duchess of _ 2 Sticky semiliquid

3 Kid 'n Play bash 4 Undertaking

5 Goal-oriented activity

6 Shoe feature

7 Work in the cutting room

8 Business card abbr.

9 Term of respect in India

10 Itinerant worker

11 Data

12 First name in old

slapstick

13 Creator of Betamax 19 Not yet final, legally

24 This may sting a little

25 Chutzpah

26 Hours-long film. perhaps

27 Legally prohibit

29 Gloomy atmospheres

30 Candy store purchase 31 At full speed, on the

water

32 Dirt spreader

34 Presidential nickname

of yore

37 Stir up, without a spoon

40 Lures

42 Had a bone to pick?

43 Phone playback

45 Oft-twisted treat

46 Piglets (Var.)

48 Unexpressed yet

understood

49 Workplace posting 50 Court hearing

51 It may be helping or linking

65

GLASS WARE

12 13

31 32

54 55

16

35

53

59

62

19

22

42 43

25 26

48

29

52

52 Hardly height-challenged

Friday's Solution

54 Arizona river

55 "No ifs, ___ or buts"

57 "America's Got Talent" network 58 It's all about the ball bearing

Today in History

1941 During World war II, while the first Churchill becomes the first During World War II, Winston British prime minister to address a joint meeting of the U.S. Congress.

JonBenet Ramsey, 6, is found dead in the basement of her family's home in Boulder, Colo.

About 230,000 people, mostly in southern Asia, are killed by a tsunami.

express



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people lookout

2012's Spectrum of Celebrity Dysfunction

We re-read every one of this year's People pages to determine who belonged in our year-end accounting of famous-person hoo-ha. As always, we wondered, "We went to journalism school for THIS?" And, "Do readers actually want Lindsay Lohan news every day?" And, "When will Angelina Jolie run for office?" (EXPRESS)



Losers

Lindsay Lohan In terms of how many times an individual celebrity has appeared on this page in one year, she wins, hands-down. And therefore loses.

LeAnn Rimes She went to rehab over online bullying (can't she just NOT READ HER TWITTER FEED?) and will not shut up about her bygone extramarital affair.

Amanda Bynes This is not how you make a comeback. You need some petty thefts and definitely rehab, but not a bunch of hit-and-runs and a DUI charge.

Kristen Stewart Her first mistake: cheating on R-Patz. Her second: getting caught by Us Weekly.

Prince Harry Remember Prince Andrew? His antics made him a joke. Nude pics put Harry on that path.

Broke Even

Nadya "Octomom" Suleman She embarked on several money-making ventures, including porn and stripping.

Bristol Palin Her Lifetime show, "Bristol Palin: Life's a Tripp," bombed. She was a "Dancing with the Stars" all-star pick, though, so she's still relevant.

Shakira In February, she was menaced by a sea lion in South Africa. In September, she announced her pregnancy. This one's a tough call.

Taylor Swift She romanced an 18-year-old Kennedy, but they broke up. For Swift, that's a win-win.

Justin Bieber Biebs turned 18 in March. He and Selena Gomez broke up briefly in November. If it happens again, well, you know who'll date teenagers ...

Winners

Jennifer Aniston Brad Pitt's ex is finally marrying again. Boyfriend Justin Theroux proposed in August.

Kim Kardashian She's dating a legitimate artist, rules the Internet and can't seem to elicit any truly bad publicity. She's the Teflon floozy.

Brangelina Brad Pitt and Angelina Jolie gave in to their six children and got engaged in April.

Katie Holmes In August, she secured full custody of Suri in a breathtakingly fast divorce. All she has to do to keep the Scientology ninjas at bay is not write a book.

Kate and Pippa Middleton The former was named "Hat Person of the Year" in January and is also pregnant. The latter's bottom remained royally taut.



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